who have been benefited in 1996-97 is being collected from the concerned State Govts./U.T. Administrations.

**Grants to Indian Spinal Injury Centre, New Delhi**

1389. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the MINISTER OF WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the grants given to the Indian Spinal Injury Centre, New Delhi so far; and

(b) the steps proposed to start such centres in the interior of the country for the benefit of rural poor disabled?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) A sum of Rs. 2.5 crores has been released as grant to the Indian Spinal Injuries Centres, New Delhi.

(b) At present no porposal for setting up such Super Speciality centres in rural areas is under consideration of the Government.

**Legislation to protect the rights of persons with Disabilities**

1390. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how Government ensures the implementation of the legislation to protect the rights of persons with disablities;

(b) why the report of the Disabilities Chief Commissioner not laid in the Parliament; and

(c) the steps proposed to inform Parliament from time to time about the welfare measures taken towards disabled persons?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) Appropriate Governments ~-<-vre the implementation of the persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 by making necessary institutional arrangements and implementating various programmes for the people with disabilities within the limits of their economic capacity and development. Institutional arrangements include:

(i) setting up of the Central Coordination Committee by the Central Government and State Coordination Committees by State/ UT Governments.

(ii) setting up of Central Executive Committee by Central Government and State Executive Committees by State/UT Governments.

(iii) Appointment of Chief Commissioner for persons with Disabilities by Central Government and Commissioner for persons with Disablities by State/UT Governments.

(b) and (c) Central Government shall cause the Annual Report submitted by Chief Commissioners to be laid before each house of the Parliament giving full account of his activities during the previous financial year.

Chief Commissioner for persons with Disablities has been recently appointed vide Government order dated 5th June, 1997. As per rules, Chief Commissoner shall, as soon as, possible after the end of